



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky**

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TWO ILLEGAL ALIENS PLEAD GUILTY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

– Joint investigation by federal , state, and local law enforcement yields \$28,000 of cocaine

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Ricardo Zepeda-Valenzuela**, age 27, and **Jose Luis Castro-Lopez**, age 24, both of Springfield, Kentucky, in Washington County, pled guilty on June 25, 2007, to possession with intent to distribute cocaine, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

Zepeda-Valenzuela and Castro-Lopez admitted that on January 19, 2007, in Springfield, Kentucky, they jointly possessed approximately one kilogram of cocaine hydrochloride with the intent to distribute it to a confidential informant working for the police. The street value of cocaine in this area is approximately \$26,000 to \$28,000 per kilogram.

The maximum potential penalties are 40 years imprisonment, a \$2,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of four years, and there is a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry Fentress, and it was investigated by the Kentucky State Police, the Springfield Police Department, the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The pleas were entered before Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

Judge Russell has ordered a presentence investigation. Sentencing should be scheduled

in approximately ten to twelve weeks.

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